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December 18, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry  
Chief of Police

Subject: Jack Ruby

Sir:

Deputy Sheriff William L. Watkins was interviewed this date regarding the issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus on Jack L. Ruby, November 24, 1963. Mr. Watkins stated that Attorney Tom Howard entered the Dallas County Sheriff's Office approximately 30 or 45 minutes after the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Attorney Howard used a public telephone to call Judge Joe B. Brown requesting a Writ of Habeas Corpus for subject.

Mr. Watkins stated that Sheriff Bill Decker then telephoned Judge Brown for verification of the issuance of a dry writ. Judge Brown gave this verification and the writ was returnable at 11:00 a.m., November 25, 1963, in Judge Joe B. Brown's Criminal District Court.

Judge Joe B. Brown telephoned the Sheriff's Office after hearing of the death of Lee Harvey Oswald and ordered Deputy Sheriff Watkins to cancel the writ application for Jack Ruby and he immediately complied with this order.

At the time of a writ application made with the Sheriff's Office, no record of the time of the issuance of a writ is recorded - only the date of issuance, the name of the attorney, the date and the time that the writ is returnable and the name of the court is recorded. The time given in this instance is the time furnished by Deputy Watkins' memory.

The application for this Writ of Habeas Corpus was made by Attorney Tom Howard and Attorney Colley Sullivan, local attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

*H. M. Hart*

H. M. Hart, Detective  
Special Service Bureau

HMH:mw